

THE SHED

AUCKLAND CENTRAL COMMUNITY SHED INC

March 2020 Newsletter



What strange and unusual times we are in, and with all the Negative and uncertain 'Speak' perhaps its refreshing to hear some good News (to begin with). Just over a week ago now The Shed, Your Shed, hosted an activity with a Local Brownie group of about 26 wee girls of 6 and 7 years of age. This was a part of them achieving one of their 'badges'. This activity was a few weeks in preparation and came about after we were approached by a Brownie Leader who had come across an article about a Shed down country being involved in this kind of Community activity.



My first reaction when approached was to say 'No way Jose" but when I started talking about it to a couple of the Sheddies they liked the idea of doing it. Craig became the co-ordinating person for this and got together withthe group leader to work out what and how they would do the project.....and it was to make a Bird Feeder.. When I spoke to Bunnings they were more than happy to come to the party and provided us the use of 10 child size hammers. Using recycled timber from the Shed Craig and a few helpers cut and pre drilled the wood

The event was held on Monday evening when the Shed was normally closed. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.....it was a little chaotic as you would expect and the noise of a dozen hammers banging in nails was deafening (something we hadn't foreseen), the group of 26 was split into two groups and ½ worked with Jason doing horticultural things on the Greens and then we switched the groups over when the feeders were completed. We had the help of three or four parents also who worked with Ken, Ross, Burt, Craigand myself to complete the project.

The girls did good, Ken made certificates which we presented to them afterwards. The Brownie leaders, supporters and brownies themselves expressed their appreciation of the Shed



In terms of other Community activity Don has made various cupboards and shelving for Marpura Studios and the Mt Albert Community Club and we have had requests to make another Lilliput Library and also a Score keeper for the rejuvenated local Petanque Club.



We get a steady stream of walk-ins from the public wanting us to repair furniture or electrical appliances which invariably go to Ken to fix (the electrical ones). One item a 19th Century French antique Bed has represented quite a challenge to try and fix as the owners didn't want the original-ness (is there such a word?) to be compromised. It has sat around for a couple of months because everyone considered it in the 'too hard' basket....but it looks as though we have finally figured out a way to fix it.



The Ferrari was a bit too much to fix

There continues to be a range of different projects being made by Sheddies

A Rustic Stool



.....Membership now sits at 135 so we are feeling under pressure and the machinery certainly is, the Metal working Lathe broke down a few weeks ago and was out of action until a broken part could be welded up (off-site). The Large Band saw is now out of action and awaiting parts from Australia.



Unfortunately due to a change in his circumstances, Glen has had to pull back from Machine maintenance work this was unfortunate because this happened just after he had dismantled the dust collection unit on the Sanding Machines. So some of us have been experiencing times when Dust has filled the Workshop. Charles has agreed to take on some of this maintenance work and is targeting the Sanders dust collection as his first project.

Once the Shed is operational (open) again we all could all help minimize the dust, by doing all hand machine sanding outside. weather permitting.

Last Sunday a number of invited Members met in a facilitated discussion to talk about a number of issues that have started to arise over the last year. The advantage of having a facilitated meeting was that we able to follow a guided path to fully discuss and address the various issues.

It is has clearly become apparent that the Community? Shed we have become is so vastly different from ALL other Sheds around the Country. What we have become is more or less a Budget priced Service that members use rather than a Community that pulls together and shares the running of the Shed in all its various aspects and engages with the wider Community in a whole range of projects. We recognise the current structure has not provided transparency to allow Members accessible ways in which to engage and contribute.

Things need to change, essentially the Shed is run by a handful of retired guys supporting the many. And becoming increasingly grumpy about it (more so than normal) So do we substantially increase fees and get paid help to share the load or do we simply UP the expectations of membership?.....and this is the path that we are more than likely to take otherwise it becomes an US and THEM (YOU) scenario.....anyway the Shed closure has enabled the committee +, to grapple with and focus more on these issues.

Here's some shapely legs trying to get away (leg it). You may have a use for them, they came out of a cabinet makers (now retired) collection



This stuff still amazes me3d printed Chess pieces



Ken Made a cabinet a while ago to display his collection of Vintage and unusual model aeroplane engines.





And finally Dons Pretty Wendy House

And on a Final note..... it would be good to see and hear of any DIY stuff you Guys get up to over the next four weeks. I was at Mitre 10 the day before Lock down and the place was absolutely packed....so I am guessing people will be getting onto some of those jobs around the house in need of attention and maybe a project or two also. Send in stuff to aucklandcentralshed@gmail.com

Wishing the very best to you all and keep yourselves safe and see you in a few weeks